

U.S. Neo-Colonialism in South Viet Nam

A DOUBLE LESSON

DURING the day, American bombers reduce a village to ashes. Night comes. Over the smoldering ruins, a helicopter—American of course—hovers. It blares out nostalgic songs expressing poignant sorrow. At intervals, between two songs, one hears hair-raising howling and weeping, in which those with some experience easily recognize the cries of people being tortured. Those songs and screams, taped and broadcast over bombed villages, are for the wounded and the survivors. The aim is to break down their morale, soften them up, drive them to complete submission. That's "psychological warfare, following in the steps of war by bombs and shells."

When one closely studies American "neo-colonialist" policy as applied in Viet Nam one is struck by the diversity of the means put to use. Tiger cages, B-52s, napalm, "defoliants," steel-pellet bombs, phosphorus, Green Berets, films, books, television, various religions—nothing has been overlooked. Viet Nam has become a testing-ground for all the weapons, tactics, psychological and sociological tricks and political machinations that American laboratories, plants, and research centres have turned out and are continuing to turn out every day.

In its attempts to destroy, physically and spiritually, the resistance of a people, in its endeavour to wipe out all material and biological life on Vietnamese soil, to eradicate all class and communal conscience, and to turn each Vietnamese into a

man ready to betray his country and to murder his fellow-countrymen just for the sake of a few dollars, American neo-colonialism sticks at nothing. It has revealed itself to be much more ferocious and cruel than old colonialism.

One is also struck by the obduracy and stubbornness with which Washington has been conducting its Vietnamese and Indochinese policy over the past twenty years: intervention at early as 1950 and supply to French colonialism of material and technical means to help it crush the Vietnamese resistance, sabotage of the 1954 Geneva conference, bloody repression of the South Vietnamese population, special war, then massive armed intervention, ending up with "Vietnamization" and extension of the war to Cambodia.

Truman's decision in 1950 to send a US military mission to "help" and to the French command was followed by Eisenhower's to give every assistance to Ngo Dinh Diem, by Kennedy's to launch his special war, by Johnson's to engage in large-scale escalation, and finally by the adventurous steps taken by Nixon, who has extended the war to the whole of Indochina.

From a twenty-year-old confrontation the Vietnamese people have drawn a first lesson: neo-colonialism is indeed a fundamental policy of US imperialism; it is part and parcel, indeed the keystone of the latter's global strategy. American imperialism is bent on carrying out this policy in a systematic and savage way, sparing no means and no effort. Washington's Vietnamese and Indochinese policy is not the result of improvisations, sudden changes of temper, and temporary errors; it is integrated into an overall policy, neo-colonialism, which is itself closely bound up with the present structures of imperialism and its present situation in the world.

Viet Nam is not an isolated case. Let us not forget all the interventions, brutal or camouflaged, in many countries since 1945. Let us not forget Iran, Guatemala, the Congo, Santo Domingo, Bolivia and so many other affairs. The invasion of Cambodia by American and South Vietnamese troops came as a surprise only to those who had not been abreast with the situation for the last twenty years.

While progressive people in the United States cry out: "No more Viet Nam!" the American rulers, the Pentagon, are ready to intervene brutally in any country of the Third World, whenever they think it necessary and possible. They have set up a colonial war machine, a political machine, an espionage network, a financial system, all on a world scale, to make it possible for Washington to wade in in any part of the world. Today, Viet Nam, Indochina; to-morrow, no one knows yet where. But one may be sure that the plans have been worked out in detail and are ready.

FROM their twenty-year-old confrontation with US imperialism, the Vietnamese people have also been able to draw a second lesson: no technical means, no political manoeuvre, no psychological trick can overcome the resistance of a people resolved to wrest back its independence and freedom. While the history of Washington's Vietnamese and Indochinese policy has been a series of more and more brutal interventions, it has also been a record of ever more severe failures. Each technique and tactics practiced by the Americans has been victoriously countered by the Vietnamese, then Lao and Khmer, peoples.

American imperialism was unable to save French colonialism from the Dien Bien Phu disaster. It was incapable of saving Ngo Dinh Diem, and was thus forced to liquidate him unceremoniously. Special war, the most recent discovery of the strategists, has come to grief, Washington has mobilized to the utmost its armed forces and air and naval fleets against the North and the South of Viet Nam, but to no avail. The invasion of Cambodia has only resulted in rousing an entire people against American policy.

A serious consequence has been that never in the whole history of imperialism has the American nation gone through such a profound internal crisis. When a regime that proclaims itself to be the most advanced democracy in the world orders its police to fire on student contestants and resorts to deceptions against its own Senate, while a country that prides itself

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Saigon Students Stage Violent Demonstrations Against U.S.-Puppets

ON July 11, some one thousand Saigon students took to the streets to protest the US war of aggression and demand peace.

The demonstrators carried with them a coffin with an inscription "Peace now and stop the war!" and an enormous, white cotton dove symbol of peace. They marched to the "Independence Palace."

19 US and other foreign pacifists who had been in Saigon for a week, also took

part in the action, carrying with them banners reading "Peace now!" and "We condemn the corrupted, unjust and dictatorial government of President Thieu!"

Violent clashes broke out between protesters and heavily-armed combat police of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. Many of the demonstrators succeeded in breaking through police cordons and reaching the puppet Lower House.

Earlier, the Saigon Students' Union had held a meeting for "an immediate

peace" at the Agricultural Faculty.

Bishop Paul Moore and 15 other foreign pacifists took part in the meeting. One of them said that back to all United States they would demand an end to US support of Nguyen Van Thieu, because, they said, the US had convinced them that the Thieu regime had become completely unpopular.

An American student and a South Vietnamese girl

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The 1954 Geneva Agreements' Immutable Principles Must Be Abided By

by DO XUAN SANG
DRVN Lawyers' Association

SIXTEEN years ago, the Geneva Agreements established peace in Indochina on the basis of cogent principles, namely sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Indochinese countries, with strict prohibition of all outside interference in their internal affairs.

The temporary partition of Viet Nam only served the purpose of the cease-fire through regroupment of the belligerent forces on either side of a military demarcation line which "is provisional and should not in any way be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary." (Point 6 of the Final Declaration.)

Nobody was humiliated - neither the French aggressor, nor his American sleeping partner, nor the Bao Dai puppet regime, for it was authorized to be party to the Final Declaration at the Conference and provided with an exit in the free general elections scheduled for July 1956. Article 21, paragraph C of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Viet Nam confirmed by Point 9 of the Final Declaration, prohibits all "reprisals or discrimination against persons or organizations on account of their activities during the hostilities" and guarantees their democratic liberties.

The victors, in this case the Vietnamese people, as well as the Lao and Cambodian peoples, thus showed a wisdom and sober-mindedness helpful to the relaxation of international tensions. However, their enemies, chiefly the US imperialists, torpedoed the Geneva Accords immediately after their signing.

The US of Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon has been waging war in all its horrible forms: unilateral undeclared war, special war, then local war in

South Viet Nam, war of destruction by air and naval bombardments against North Viet Nam, special war in Laos, subversive attempts, then coup d'etat and armed aggression in Cambodia.

It was a deliberate, systematic and complete violation of the Geneva principles sanctioned in Point 12 of the Final Declaration.

Nevertheless juridically speaking, the White House can neither deny nor dodge the Geneva Agreements and its jurists have vainly tried to distort these and vindicate US presence in South Viet Nam.

Thus the legal memorandum filed by Leonard C. Meeker, legal adviser to the Department of State, read: "The Geneva Accords of 1954 established the date and hour for a cease-fire in Viet Nam, drew a provisional military demarcation line, with a demilitarized zone on both sides, and required an exchange of prisoners and the phased regroupment of Viet Minh forces from the South to the North and of French Union forces from the North to the South. The introduction into Viet Nam of troop reinforcements and new military equipment (except for replacement and repair) was prohibited. The armed forces of each party were required to respect the demilitarized zone and the territory of the other one." In short, the Geneva Accords would build down to an armistice convention, losing their essential character as a political settlement of the Indochinese issue on the basis of respect for the fundamental national rights of the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

At the Paris talks between the DRVN and the US, A. Harriman tried to make a difference between the essential and non-

essential elements of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. The essential elements would be the separation and regroupment of the belligerent forces, creation of a demilitarized zone, renunciation to the use of force, international control and political settlement by means of free elections which could take place only in peace time.

Then, Cabot Lodge admitted four essential elements: 1 - setting up of a provisional military demarcation line and a demilitarized zone; 2 - disengagement of the belligerents and cessation of hostilities; 3 - non-intervention and non-aggression of one zone against another in Viet Nam; 4 - international supervision.

These attempts to wrest the 1954 Agreements on Viet Nam try to turn the Southern zone into a separate State which, placed in a demilitarized zone, could "legally" receive US aid even in the form of an expeditionary force. All that runs counter to international law, as it has been conceived, taught and practised everywhere.

The far-fetched arguments of the American jurists and diplomats have been easily disposed of by the Vietnamese side, strongly supported by lawyers in the world and progressive American lawyers, chiefly the Lawyers' Committee on American Policy toward Viet Nam.

ON the battlefield, the imperialists have failed in obtaining the fundamental national rights of the Indochinese peoples. But the men in Washington still think that they can continue to negotiate from a position of strength, whereas their desperate efforts to prolong the war either by Vietnamizing it or

bringing it to Laos and Cambodia. Realities have debunked this myth.

A military solution, that is the crushing of the resistance of the Indochinese peoples, being impossible, the only alternative left to the US is to negotiate, not from a position of strength but on a reasonable basis which can only be respect for the fundamental national rights of the Indochinese peoples, i.e. the fundamental principles of the 1954 Agreements.

The position of the peoples of South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, as laid down in the NFL to-point over-all solution, the political program of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the March 6, 1970 declaration of the Lao Patriotic Front, is as clear as daylight: independence, peace, neutrality and, with regard to South Viet Nam, peaceful advance toward national reunification. This solution is not only fair and conform to international law and the Geneva law, but sensible and not humiliating for anyone, be they the US aggressors or their allies and satellites, or even the personalities on the other side of the barricade who will be given all facilities to be reinstated in the national community where there will be no discrimination against them. Only US neo-colonialism and the puppet regimes at its back and call will be banished.

Nixon pretends to show his good will by appointing a democrat David Bruce as his spokesman at the Paris Conference. However, so long as the White House does not renounce its policy of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, that is so long as it does not give up its neo-colonialist policy, the negotiations cannot make any progress. The longer the conflict drags on, the more disastrously it will boomerang on the US.

was ordered to carry twice as much equipment and then beaten brutally by my company commander who later tried to kill me," Sweeney said.

"After that I decided I was not going to move any more, and he decided to leave me in the jungle to die and report me as 'missing in action'."

Sweeney said he had spent "five nights and four days standing by the side of Hue city with no food and very little water and malaria."

"Before I came to Viet Nam I had heard an American GI who had crossed over to the side of the National Front for Liberation. He was an Afro-American and his name was Machingly Nallan. When I was in the jungle alone, I decided to return to the US armed forces again. I started to search for the liberation forces."

Some time later, Sweeney met two liberation fighters who carried him back to their base.

"On arrival at their base, I was immediately given the much-needed medical attention and food, which is

very contrary to the complete lies I was told during my training."

Sweeney said he had been told that if he were ever captured by the liberation forces, even if he were not armed, he might be killed or tortured. But what actually happened was quite another story, said Sweeney.

"I have been living with the Vietnamese people for seventeen months. There have been many things that impressed me. The first thing that impressed me was that the Vietnamese people consider me as a friend, and they know that their real enemy is not the people of the US of America but their real enemy is the warmongering government in Washington."

"Also the relationship between the men and officers of the liberation forces impressed me very much. There was mutual love and respect between the men and officers of the liberation armed forces. That is something that does not exist in the US armed forces."

"One thing I want to tell by living among the people

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The harvest is brought to the drying-yard of the co-operative

* BUMPER WINTER-SPRING CROP IN THAI BINH PROVINCE

CO-OPERATIVE peasants of Thai Binh province have brought in a good rice harvest.

According to initial figures, the average paddy output in the whole province reached 3 tons per hectare, surpassing the target yield by 10 per cent (as against 2.6 tons per hectare in the winter 1966 - spring 1967 bumper rice crop) and the planned average by 1.12 per cent.

After ten years of persevering experiments and extension of acreage under "spring" rice crop with a view to basically changing the percentage of cultivation in the province and better solving the food problem, in this winter - spring crop Thai Binh increased the area of "spring" rice to 52.2 per cent of the whole crop (twice as against last year's "spring" crop) and enlarged the sowing and transplanting area

of a new variety of "spring" high-yield seed. Its average productivity is 3.8 tons per hectare or 1.1 tons more than the previous year. With 72% of area grown with "spring" rice, Dong Hung district has reaped the heaviest "spring" rice crop in the province. Other districts as Hung Ha, Quynh Phu, Kien Xuong and Vu Thi which grew "spring" rice on 56-60% of their ricefield have also attained a fairly high output.

Nearly 30 co-ops in the province obtained an average of 4-5 tons of paddy per hectare. Almost all of them grew "spring" rice. Such advanced co-ops as Vu Thang (Kien Xuong district), village-scale co-op, and Tan Phong (Vu Thi district) planned "spring" rice on their whole area and harvested about 5 tons of paddy per hectare on the average.

Thai Binh has grown

* COTTON HARVEST IN YEN DINH

THE co-operatives of Yen Dinh district, Thanh Hoa province, have reaped a bumper cotton crop. In comparison with last year the areas under cotton increased by 50 per cent and its output by 80 per cent. The volume of raw cotton these co-ops supplied to the State reached 489 tons, thus exceeding last year's figure by 200 tons.

Taking into account the soil, climate and the experience previously gained, this year Yen Dinh district assigned the job of cotton-growing to 24 co-ops, among them 12 of village size.

District technicians have been guiding and helping the co-ops to build hydraulic works; a system of canals and channels for irrigation, draining and maintaining an amount of humidity suitable for the growth of the cotton-plant has been completed. Moreover, highland co-ops have been supplied with nine Diesel pumps.

The co-ops selected high - yield and long - stapled seeds, manured each hectare of cotton field with 7 - 9 tons of fertilizers and satisfactorily applied intensive cultivation techniques. Manpower was appropriately used by the co-ops for a prompt harvesting of cotton. Harvesters even worked at noon to complete their daily task. The co-ops have delimited planting areas for the coming cotton crop, and put them under a short-term rice while preparing the soil for the 1971 cotton crop.

* Hanoi Handicrafts

HANOI is a city known for its age-old handicrafts.

Formerly, each village around it specialized in a particular branch and achieved national fame for its products, for instance Bui paper, Trich Soi satin, Dong My and Dong Ngac baskets, Nga Xa copper utensils, Xuan Phong hardware, Bat Trang ceramics.

The city was reputed for its "thirty six key-crafts" and its streets bear still now the names which recall the artistic groupments it gathered, such as Cotton Street, Silk Street, Tinware Street, Copper Street, Silver Street.

In fact Hanoi has been at all times the key-city of handicrafts of the country. Its articles were in great demand (owing to their high quality and artistic production) not only at home but also abroad.

At present, after fifteen years of socialist transformation and construction and economic development, Hanoi boasts 340 handicraft co-operatives and 821 artisanal groups numbering 33,000 handicraftsmen; their annual production represents 42 per cent of the total value of industrial output of the city and one-fifth of the value of handicraft output of North Viet Nam. Many hand-made articles account for a high percentage in the city's total output of their branches: goods supplied to farming, 51 per cent; ceramics, glassware, kilns and stoves, 70 per cent; hosiery, leather, dye-stuffs, iron-mongery, of fine requisites, 60 per cent. Some objects of art, chiefly basket-work, come entirely from handicrafts.

Hanoi handicrafts employ many categories of artisans: specialized workers, ex-

war-invalids, small traders shifted to production, individual housekeepers, old-agers. These artisans who mainly paddle their own canoes, have pooled their material and labour to build up a socialist collective economy. They turn out most varied commodities, from toothpicks, chopsticks, baskets, household utensils, to articles requiring a more or less high technique such as surgical instruments, spare parts for clocks, bicycles, tools and various objects of arts. They are now capable of mass producing consumer goods which the State industrial enterprises alone are not yet in a position to manufacture in adequate quantities for local consumption.

In 1969, the total gross product of handicrafts and cottage industry in Hanoi

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DEPARTING ANTI-WAR G.I. TELLS HIS STORY

(by a VNA reporter)

A press conference was held in Hanoi on July 10 by Truong Cong Dong, Acting Head of the Special Representation of the Republic of North Viet Nam in the DRVN, in connection with the forthcoming departure for Sweden of its anti-war American soldier who had crossed over to the liberation forces in South Viet Nam.

Truong Cong Dong told the conference that in implementation of the policy of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of North Viet Nam toward the officers and soldiers of the US and other foreign countries of the US camp who want to get out of the war of aggression in Viet Nam, the Special Representation had been charged with taking all the necessary measures to help the American soldiers John M. Sweeney, registra-

tion number 2470650, M. (Mike) Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Regiment, US 3rd Marine Division.

Truong Cong Dong condemned the Nixon Administration for stubbornly prolonging its war of aggression in South Viet Nam and wounding the South Viet Nam soldiers, thus causing so much useless suffering to the American youth, soldiers and their families.

For this reason, he said, many officers and soldiers of the US and foreign countries of the US camp in South Viet Nam have joined progressive Americans and peace, freedom and justice-loving people in the society by renouncing posing Nixon's policy of war prolongation and expansion.

The conference then heard a verbal statement by John M. Sweeney himself.

"My first assignment in Viet Nam reinforced greatly my slight anti-war feelings,

I was assigned to a company security company on the Ho Chi Minh Highway in northern Quang Tri province."

"While on operation, I was able to see children standing by the side of the road begging for food. And outside Cam Lo which is a war concentration camp for the national minorities, I saw a sign which read: 'Do not feed the children.' It began making me wonder if that the United States Government and the Saigon puppets consider the people of Viet Nam animals."

"The only place where I had ever seen such a sight was a city zoo," Sweeney said.

He said he had got order to join his unit in Quevedo Canyon Operation, and his unit was attacked by the liberation forces.

"Five or six days I became sick with malaria. Instead of being sent to the rear, I

was ordered to carry twice as much equipment and then beaten brutally by my company commander who later tried to kill me," Sweeney said.

"After that I decided I was not going to move any more, and he decided to leave me in the jungle to die and report me as 'missing in action'."

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Making bamboo blinds

A press conference was held in Hanoi on July 14 by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN. Mme Nguyen Khanh Phuong, member of the Delegation (standing), formerly detained at Con Son, and other South Vietnamese, victims of US puppet atrocities, told news-men about the horrible days they had spent in that hell on earth.



Con Son A Devil's Island

THE Con Son penitentiary island (formerly Poulo Condor) is two miles southeast of Saigon, very hard to escape from, is "well-known" for its "tiger cages" where shackled prisoners suffer most harsh conditions. Access to these cages, the existence of which was denied, has been strictly forbidden by the Saigon authorities. It was "by chance" that Don Luce, a newsmen and General Secretary of the World Council of Churches in the United States, and his two companions, Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins and Rep. William R. Anderson, were able to see these cages during their recent visit to South Viet Nam.

The tiger cages, "depicted Luce, "are stone compartments 3 metres long by 1.5 metres wide where 3 to 5 prisoners are kept. Their legs are shirvelled. They drag themselves with their hands."

"We looked down from a catwalk through large openings, one for each cell," Luce went on. "There are 60 or 70 cages in each of their buildings we visited. In each women's cage there are 3 prisoners. Most of the men's cages have 2 to 4 inmates. When we went between the cages, they pleaded for water. 'We have been beaten. We are hungry, we are sick and have no medicine,' they cried out."

"Above each cage was a bucket of white lime, that Colonel Nguyen Van Ve said was used to whitewash the walls. But the prisoners told us that the lime was thrown down on them when they asked for food, the ground was actually covered with lime. They also said that when the lime was thrown on them they coughed and spat blood. Many said that they had the disease of the lungs (T.B.) and could not breathe when the lime was thrown on them. They complained that their rice was mixed with sand and pebbles. They had to eat fleas, insects and lizards alive."

Luce added that the students who had lived in these cages told that for want of toilet paper they had been compelled to use a bit of cloth cut from their shirts which they washed with their own urine. "The women," Luce continued, "resented bitterly the lack

of water for washing, even during their menstruation." Some of them were under fifteen. One of them told Luce, who speaks Vietnamese fluently and was not a communist but that she had been arrested during a peace demonstration. Luce pointed out that a great number of them came from Saigon high schools.

At their press conference held on July 7, 1970 in Washington, Augustus F. Hawkins and William R. Anderson affirmed that hundreds of men and women were herded "like animals" in "tiger cages" and subjected to "most harsh conditions." These prisoners were ill-treated for "they would not salute the flag (of the Saigon puppet regime)" as explained Colonel Nguyen Van Ve, chief warden of the penitentiary.

The Representatives also remarked that the Con Son penitentiary kept about 10,000 Vietnamese patriots and is "the worst I've ever seen."

As the Saigon puppet administration tried to hush up the truth about the Con Son penitentiary, three Saigon students who had been kept in a tiger cage gave a press conference in Saigon to affirm that there were at present more than 1,200 people, among them 400 women, detained in Con Son "tiger cages." One of the students, Cao Nguyen Loi, denounced that he had been detained 13 months in a tiger cage after having been arrested in July 1968 during a demonstration for an end to the American aggressive war, and against military draft. The students related also that for want of food, the prisoners "had to eat fleas, insects, and lizards alive," that most of them were paralysed and that the penitentiary had at its disposal "over 1,000 orderlies specialized in visiting atrocities" upon them.

The truth being brought to light, a spokesman of the American mission in Saigon had to admit "its knowledge of the tiger cages" and that from 5 to 7 American military men served as advisors to the South Viet Nam authorities at the penitentiary. He also revealed that the US Government had

granted \$44,000 dollars to supply it with necessary equipment.

For its part, the International Red Cross in Geneva has issued a statement protesting against the Saigon puppet's claim that the International Red Cross was satisfied with the conditions of imprisonment of the Poulo Condor jail.

The statement pointed out "The conditions of detention in Poulo Condor do not meet the criteria of the International Red Cross. This has been made clear to the South Viet Nam Government by the delegates of the International Red Cross during their visits there."

The statement went on: "The camp was inspected twice in 1969 then again in February last. Each time detailed reports were sent to Saigon. According to well-informed sources, South Viet Nam (the Saigon puppet administration-Ed.) assertions that the International Red Cross was satisfied with the conditions of imprisonment were refuted in Geneva. On the contrary, it was pointed out that these assertions had been strongly denounced. The reports showed a constant worsening of the detention regime."

OVER the past few days, world public opinion has been strongly critical of the inhuman treatment of political prisoners by the US and Saigon puppets, particularly at the Con Son jail.

Protest resolutions against the outrageous penitentiary regime in South Viet Nam were passed by various meetings of mass organizations in the German Democratic Republic, ADN reported.

A resolution sent to Nixon by the students of the Party Institute in Berlin said: "With his dirty war of aggression and atrocious crimes in South Viet Nam, President Nixon is reviving the horrors of the Hitler

Editor's Note - Tiger cages on Con Son Island have recently been uncovered by three Americans—two Congressmen and a writer. In fact their existence dates back to a long past and they have been under heavy fire before the American disclosure. Following are excerpts from the book *Bat Khua!* (Indomitable) (Youth Publishing House, Hanoi, 1967), whose author, Nguyen Duc Thuan, was held in Con Son penitentiary island for 8 years (1956 - 1964) 4 of them in a tiger cage.

THE rows of tiger cages now came into sight. A verandah with big tarred pillars and iron gates which kept banging now and then. The high wall also tarred half-way up, was icy cold. We kept moving forward. Someone was groaning. There was also a hum of voices. It seemed someone behind the wall had sighted us. Suddenly a scream was heard, followed by two or three howls of anguish.

ANIMALS IN IRON CAGES

LIFE in a tiger cage began... Today, I spent my time closely observing mine. It was merely a special-type cell. I'll tell what was special about it later. Right at its entrance was placed a toilet bucket. Half a metre from the door was a platform 30 centimetres high, 2 metres long and 1.5 metres across. Phan Trong Binh (1) once measured its stone wall. It was about his arm's length, some 80 centimetres high. The top of the open ceiling was crossed with 20 iron bars, a little more than 10 centimetres apart. There were two rows of tiger cages on Poulo Condor (2) Island, each row 70 metres long, arranged in two lines separated by a one-metre thick wall with two verandahs. Each row had 30 cages. All the walls formed a kind of catwalk over the cells. Three metres separated these catwalks from the roof and 4 are between the formers and the roof. From these catwalks, one could look down inside and get the feeling it was a bottomless pit in a perpetual darkness. In the darkness, long-haired and bearded prisoners looked like animals in real iron cages.

Inmates of the "tiger" cells are deprived of all liberty. Conditions in tiger cages are much more horrible than any other cells. Once their doors are shut, these cells belong to the prisoners who still possess a narrow, dark space of their own. This space plagued by death and suffering, though outdone in this respect by the tiger cages — is the prisoner's. He still has the freedom to walk and move about. He is not like a prisoner in a cell who is stripped of everything. Day and night, he is under the close watch of the enemy. Guards take their rounds on the catwalks at regular intervals and look down through the iron bars at him. The prisoner is under the constant impression that he is not his old self. This psychological feeling is frightful. All the time, it is anxiety and caution and horror. Suddenly he looks up and the enemy is already there,

gazing (3) sat watching us without our knowing it. He rushed down the stairway and thereupon they dragged L.V.S. and me to a pig hole and beat us. If you are hungry, wait until the guard vanishes out of sight to take your food. If he makes a sudden return, shut your mouth and swallow down what food you are eating. If you are guarding, cease it on seeing the guard. Sadly enough, groaning helps alleviate much of the pain.

The tiger cage is really a living hell. Day and night, there is no end to a din raised by the yells of the torturers, the creaking of iron gates, the shuffles of human beings being dragged out or thrown in, the cries of anguish, blood vomiting, etc. These weird noises could be heard only in the tiger cage, I believed, and I shall remember them

keeping an unkind eye on him. There is always something in store for him: a lighted cigarette stump, a stick, a rock can be thrown down any time to his head, man."

"Why sit down, you down there?" "Why sit up, you down there?"

A prisoner who looks cheery will be asked: "Why so merry, trying to raise hell?" If he looks sad, he will be told: "Don't pretend sadness. You're conspiring to do something, aren't you?"

In short, round the clock, the prisoner is subjected to punishment of all kinds.

After several years in the tiger cage, we unanimously agree that the most freedomless man on earth is the inmate of a tiger cage.

Things are different in the cell. After each beating, the prisoner can do whatever he likes, massaging, groaning, screaming, eating or drinking. But in the tiger cage, after being beaten until he vomits blood and thrown back into it, the prisoner should lie without stirring until next day. If he stirs a bit too early, the enemy on the top of the cage seeing that will shout, "Ha, ha! he still has strength in him, he is still alive. Give him more thrashings! And the order is immediately carried out. So you had better lie still as if you had lost consciousness. When you are dropped down on the floor, try to keep in the same position as when you land. If you are hungry, wait until the guard vanishes out of sight to take your food. If he makes a sudden return, shut your mouth and swallow down what food you are eating. If you are guarding, cease it on seeing the guard. Sadly enough, groaning helps alleviate much of the pain."

Song (3) sat watching us without our knowing it. He rushed down the stairway and thereupon they dragged L.V.S. and me to a pig hole and beat us. If you are hungry, wait until the guard vanishes out of sight to take your food. If he makes a sudden return, shut your mouth and swallow down what food you are eating. If you are guarding, cease it on seeing the guard. Sadly enough, groaning helps alleviate much of the pain."

The tiger cage is really a living hell. Day and night, there is no end to a din raised by the yells of the torturers, the creaking of iron gates, the shuffles of human beings being dragged out or thrown in, the cries of anguish, blood vomiting, etc. These weird noises could be heard only in the tiger cage, I believed, and I shall remember them

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and the Japan - Viet Nam Friendship Association lodged on July 9 a strong protest with the Saigon "Embassy" in Japan.

The protest note, addressed to Nguyen Van Thieu, insisted that the Saigon authorities immediately put an end to the cruelties against prisoners at Con Son.

The International Lawyers' Committee in Geneva has urged an investigation into the horrible regime of detention at Con Son.

Many papers in West Germany have also come out against the atrocities of the US and its puppets at the Con Son penitentiary.

so long as I live. Often enough, the prisoner got the impression that he was merely an animal waiting for its turn to be slaughtered. Day and night, we expected the worst, without knowing when the beating or torturing came. The suspense was much more terrible than the real happening of the thing we expected.

In those months, I heard the frequent thuds of the blows which became quite familiar. They were usually followed by the breathless comment of the torturer, "He's dead!"

Food was simply wretched. Should a cow die of some disease, it would be a misfortune for us. That day we would be given each a few pieces of stinky meat and that day too we would receive twice as much beating, at price for the meat they had given us. We chewed the tough meat and felt a shooting pain at our jawbones because of the "pus" in it. We swallowed bits of boiled cow-hide and our throat was sore all over because of the strangling. Later on, we saw another reason why we had been given to sound a thrashing. That was a way to drive us faster back into the tiger cages and so the guards and wardens for their porkers.

A NEW-FANGLED TORTURE

A moment later, "the discipline enforcing" agents entered the tiger cage. They searched. They took away everything, leaving to each prisoner the shirt and the pair of trousers he was wearing. The prisoners were stripped of all their underclothes. Usually before a drive of terror and repression, they always mounded such a position. At the same time, more brutal might be expected because they took away even the toilet buckets. Where to relieve ourselves now?

While searches were going on in the cages, others went up and down the stairs, busy with their cawks and buckets. A drenching, no mistake! Many of us had not experienced water drenching. Yet the bare idea of it made us shudder.

A cask was placed at the top of each tiger cage. It was then filled with water.

Now they tilted it. Some torturers, amused by this game, sloped the cask at the right angle and poured the water down. From a height of 4 metres, the water fell like a

cascade on the bodies and the heads of the prisoners. Their torturers were past masters in this technique. They saw to it that the flow of water was not too abundant — so that the water did not run off too fast — or not too small — as this would lessen the effect — and so a constant flow and volume of water kept falling down. I felt the weight of the water crashing down on my head, my shoulders and my back.

It was winter and the sea gale blew in howling. It found its way into the upper floor, travelled freely in the bare tiger cages, spun round and round behind the prison walls then roared away, leaving behind a biting cold. Some people say it is not cold in the South. Right! It is not, but only for those who lead a normal life. With us it was completely different. For many years running we had undergone untold sufferings: we had lost much of our physical strength to the point that we could hardly resist the cold. Ordinarily, the cold was already a plague. The drenching aggravated it manifold. Apart from the cutting cold, the feeling of wet was awfully uncomfortable as the cages were always soaked with water. And the tension of waiting. The drenching was administered at a one-hour interval, day and night alike.

I was detained in Room 32 near the end of the row which was exposed to every wind and the cold was more intolerable. I took off my clothes, sat huddled up in a corner, pressing my legs and my arms together and against my chest and foot care not to let the water fall right on the top of my head. The drenching over, I immediately mopped the floor with my clothes, wrung them out, spread them on the floor and crouched low on it, my face buried into my hands. Only in such a position could I escape some sleep, because only my hands and the lower part of my legs from the knees down were in contact with the wet floor. It was piercingly cold. Each puff of wind made me shiver. Hardly had I shut my eyes when the clatter of clogs overhead. Without delay, I sat up in the same position as previously, ready to receive the cruel flow of water. Never in my life did I feel so cold as in those days. My skin turned pale. My body swelled. So did my calves to the size of a jar. The soles of my feet thickened up. I could not stand long on my feet because it hurt terribly. My skin cracked between the toes.

It seemed our protest was not ignored. Long ceased dropping excrement down. But now he made water through the hole in the top of the cell. Another night, after I found on my body some bits of chitty and a thread of vermicelli. The water was slimy. No mistake, Long had poured dirty water down. Finally, he continued the drenching with an even more dangerous liquid: lubricating oil mixed with kitchen ashes and salt. This mixture was dirty and harmful. The oil stuck to our skin. The potassic substances in the kitchen ashes ate into the skin and salt caused skin irritating pain. We felt greater discomfort this time. Our nerves grew raw; it was very trying indeed. The floor was so sticky with oil and ashes. Unable to lie down, we had to sit curled up all night.

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The paper *Al Shaab of Lebanon* wrote: "With America's presence in Saigon, you find there are more and more prisons similar to those of the Nazi concentration camps in the time of Hitler. Today there is the scandal of the tiger cages after the scandal of the mass-killing in South Viet Nam. Terror, slow killing and methods of suppression are being used against prisoners in Saigon. These methods are inconsistent with the simplest principles of freedom and justice. America has stained the reputation of humanity with her brutalities against the Vietnamese people."

Photos of "tiger cages" have been carried by *L'Humanité* and *France Soir* (France). *Le Monde* on July 9 wrote: "The conditions in other prisons seem to be no better. In 1968, deputy Tran Ngoc Ban (of the Saigon regime) mentioned similar conditions at the Gia Dinh jail. A deputy of Quang Nam province has also referred to the same horrors in

Every time water was poured down, we burst out yelling, "Oh! Oh! Oh!"

At each drenching, they gave us factory-broken rice with less food value to reduce our resistance to the cold. Food remained the same "mam sat" (4), a kind of fish pickle, but during the drenching period, it was mixed with rice bran and sawdust. [...]

After more than two months of the grilled dried fish and fried fish pickle, our health declined visibly. We sprained listlessly on the ground, completely exhausted. We were mere bags of bones. Too much lying on the cement floor worsened the rheumatic pains. Our eyes saw stars and our heads were dizzy. The two legs were unable to support the body.

One night, I woke up and wanted to urinate. I stood up and felt great pains in the legs. I collapsed. I leaned my hands on the wall trying to get up again but could not. My legs trembled. I breathed a long sigh. Paralysis had hit me!

They took off the sanitation bucket. We had to relieve ourselves on the door-step. They came daily to remove the excrement and urine with sand, but the cleaning had never been done properly. The door-step gave out an horrible smell.

We continued to meet all their brutalities with deliberate inertia. Long (3) now grew mad. He did not pour water down any more. He rained excrement on us. He carried a bucket of excrement to the upper floor, mixed it with urine and emptied the whole content down.

"Now, you'd better stop being obstinate!"

"Feel more comfortable?"

"Serves you right, eh?" he sneered.

After several days, the floor and the walls were coated with human waste. Its stench was unbearable. It stuck to our hair and beard. As some police agents came, we protested, "Your regime is the most barbarous in the world. You even pour down night-soil on us!"

"Not at all!"

"Just, take a look, what is this?"

"Long is to blame. He has not received any order to this effect!"

"Long is your man," we retorted.

"He dares not do it without orders from above."

It seemed our protest was not ignored. Long ceased dropping excrement down. But now he made water through the hole in the top of the cell. Another night, after I found on my body some bits of chitty and a thread of vermicelli. The water was slimy. No mistake, Long had poured dirty water down. Finally, he continued the drenching with an even more dangerous liquid: lubricating oil mixed with kitchen ashes and salt. This mixture was dirty and harmful. The oil stuck to our skin. The potassic substances in the kitchen ashes ate into the skin and salt caused skin irritating pain. We felt greater discomfort this time. Our nerves grew raw; it was very trying indeed. The floor was so sticky with oil and ashes. Unable to lie down, we had to sit curled up all night.

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CEYLON RECOGNIZES DRVN

The Ministry for External Affairs of Ceylon on July 15 released the following communiqué:

"THE Government of Ceylon has with effect from June 24, 1970 extended full diplomatic recognition to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Letters to this effect have been exchanged between the Honorable Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon, and His Excellency Mr. Pham Van Dong, Premier of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam."

CAMBODIA

FIERCE BATTLES WEST OF MEKONG RIVER

FIERCE battles were unfolding in many provinces West of the Mekong River, the FUNK Information Bureau reported.

On the night of June 25, the National Liberation Armed Forces (NLA)F) hammered at a para battalion of the Phnom Penh army stationed at Kompung Tralek, Kompung Chhang province, inflicting over 300 casualties, capturing a number of troops and downing a plane.

In Kompung Cham province, on June 29 a Saigon troop column was intercepted by regional forces: 800 soldiers, troops and 18 vehicles were put out of action.

In Preah Vihear province, on June 24 and 26, the NLA)F) fought two engagements with

Lon Nol troops stationed at Cheang Ksan and the Preah Vihear district capital, wiping out 350 enemy soldiers and capturing a big quantity of arms and ammunition.

In Siemreap province, on June 8 NLA)F) men knocked out two enemy companies at a troop concentration south of Road No. 6 and in the garrison defending a bridge east of the provincial capital.

In all, the NLA)F) put out of action over 1,100 enemy troops and 18 military vehicles.

Cambodian Minister Denounces US Scheme to Send Thai Troops to Cambodia

ACCORDING to the Information Bureau of the FUNK, on June 29, 1970, Khieu Samphan, member of the Political Bureau of the FUNK and Minister of National Defence of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, issued a statement strongly denouncing the US for sending Thai mercenaries to Cambodia.

The statement pointed out that in execution of Nixon's manoeuvre of "setting Asians against Asians," after the withdrawal of US aggressor troops to South Viet Nam, the US imperialists on the one hand still maintain a great number of Saigon puppet troops in Cambodia, and continue to savagely bomb and strafe the Cambodian territory, and on the other hand, have ordered the Thanom-Praphas clique in Bangkok to send Thai mercenaries to Cambodia to help the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique keep up aggression against Cambodia, and check the patriotic movement of the Cambodian people.

The statement called on the Cambodian army and people to strengthen their unity and increase mutual assistance in order to drive the Thai aggressors out of Cambodia. It called on the Thai people and Khmer residents in Thailand to use various forms of struggle to prevent the US and Thai reactionary authorities from sending Thai troops to Cambodia to massacre the Khmer people. It also called on Thai troops to take anti-war actions against the reactionary authorities of Thailand who, on US orders, are making preparations to deploy them into Cambodia as cannon-fodder for US troops in their aggression in Cambodia.

The statement stressed: "The struggle of the Cambodian Liberation Armed Forces and people under the leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea of which Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk is President, aimed at overthrowing the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique and pushing the US and Saigon puppet troops out of Cambodia, is a legitimate effort for peace, independence, neutrality, liberty and democracy. It is that of a nation which is refusing to surrender its independence to the US aggressors and accept the slavery yoke of US imperialism. It conforms with the interests of all nations who are denied independence and sovereignty and who are victims of oppression. Should the US imperialists and their satellites be reckless enough to dispatch their troops to Cambodia, the Cambodian army and people will resolutely inflict upon them still more ignominious setbacks."

8th Anniversary of the Signing of the Geneva Agreements on Laos

(July 23, 1962)

FACTS AND EVENTS IN LAOS FROM 1962 TO 1970

1962

June 12: The tripartite agreement on the formation of a tripartite national union government in Laos was signed in Zurich.

June 23: Formation and royal recognition of the tripartite national union government.

July 23: The Geneva Agreements on Laos were signed. Declaration on the neutrality of Laos was released.

November: The pro-US clique launched fresh attacks on the liberated zone in Savannakhet province (Upper Laos) and Saravane province (Lower Laos).

1963

April 2: Pro-US reactionaries' attempt with 4 tanks and troops to capture Colonel Deuan, commanding the neutralist armed forces, failed.

April 3: Quinim Pholsena, Foreign Minister in the tripartite national union government, a stalwart advocate of neutrality, was murdered.

July 15: Prince Souphanouvong, President of the Lao Patriotic Front (LPF), Vice-Premier of the tripartite national union government, sent to the co-chairman of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, a third letter protesting against the occupation of Laos by rightist forces in contravention of the 1962 Agreements.

July 20: A company of South Viet Nam paratroopers was air-dropped on Muong Nong area (Savannakhet).

September 9: Covered by armoured cars, rightist troops besieged the army unit defended the representation of the LPF in Vientiane, opened fire at the building, and encircled the DRVN Vientiane Embassy.

1964

January 20: 13 rightist battalions attacked many LPF positions in Xieng Khouang.

January 29: The first US "Green Beret" unit from Okinawa arrived in Thailand to take part in the "Anti-Riot" manoeuvre in co-ordination with 14,000 Thai troops, which posed a threat to the independence and neutrality of Cambodia and Laos.

February 10: The LPF issued a statement denouncing the US and its lackeys' kindling the civil war in Laos.

February 19: The SEATO held session in Bangkok to discuss the Lao situation.

April 10: The LPF second congress adopted the 10-point program of action of anti-US struggle and building a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, neutral and prosperous Laos.

April 18: The tripartite summit conference failed on account of rightist elements' attempt to send Thai mercenaries to Cambodia to support the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique and their statement that the Geneva, Zurich and Plain of Jars Agreements were outdated.

April 19: Kouprasith Abhay and Sibho engineers launched a coup d'état. They retained Prince Souvanna Phouma as "Premier" but forced him to "reshuffle" and "enlarge" his cabinet by including their men in it.

June 8: The LPF made public a statement calling for the convening in Phnom Penh of a conference of countries members of the 1962 Geneva Conference on Laos to seek a peaceful settlement to the Lao problem.

June: Prof. J. Bernal, President of the World Peace Council, the Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Committee, the Secretariat of the Afro-Asian Journalists' Association, and the Asian Buddhist Conference denounced the US imperialist aggression against Laos and the US aggression against the Lao liberated zone.

July: Operation "Three Arrows" was mounted on the liberated zone in Laos.

October 5: *Pathet Lao* Radio revealed setting up by the US and quailings of "unity

villages," a kind of "strategic hamlet" in Laos.

October 14: Large-scale operation "Son-say" launched on the Lao liberated zone.

December 27: The tripartite conference in Paris was sabotaged by US-inspired rightist elements.

December 31: Prince Souphanouvong sent to Prince Souvanna Phouma a protest against the "general election" scheme.

1965

January 31: An abortive coup d'état was staged by a number of rightist officers. The instigators, Phoumi Nosavan and Sibho, fled to Thailand.

February 22: The LPF protested against the redistribution of power in the "government" in utter contravention of the principle of unanimity between the three parties.

1966

March 20: Phoukout victory: Lao liberation forces repelled the attack of 10 enemy battalions who took heavy casualties.

May 3: *Pathet Lao* Radio condemned heavy B-52 bombardment of the liberated zone in Kham Muane province (Central Laos).

October 12: General Thao Ma, commanding Lao air force, staged a coup d'état and bombed Vientiane. The coup failed and he took refuge in Thailand.

November: Under the pressure of pro-US extremists, Kong Le resigned his post as commander of the "neutralist" forces. A few months later he went abroad.

1967

June 3: Souvanna Phouma reshuffled his cabinet and included four other pro-US elements in it.

July 24: LPT disclosed that 300 Japanese militarymen were operating on the territory controlled by the Vietnamese authorities.

August 26: Reactionaries' hand grenades at the barracks of Lao people's liberation troops defending the office of the Representation of the LPF in Vientiane.

September 29: Japanese Premier Sato visited Laos to discuss Japanese interference in Laos.

October 20: Souvanna Phouma left for a visit to the US.

November 24: Lao rightist troops, and Thai soldiers mounted big "sweeps" on the Thai-Lao borderland.

1968

January: The French monthly *L'Espresso* revealed in its January 1968 issue the presence of 12,000 Americans in Laos.

January 16: Lao patriotic forces liberated Nam Bac.

January 17: A plastic bomb laid by pro-US elements exploded in the yard of the DRVN Embassy in Vientiane.

January 22: Thai Premier Thanom Kittikachorn officially admitted attacks on Laos by US aircraft based in Thailand (*AP*, Jan. 23).

March 8: *USIS* disclosed: the US air-dropped to Lao bandits in Upper Laos about 900 tons of rice, 200 tons of wheat flour, salt, edible oil and clothes per month.

March 11: Thanat Khoman, Thai Foreign Minister, declared he did not rule out the possibility of Thai troop commitment in Laos.

June 12: On US orders, Souvanna Phouma reorganized the High Command of the Lao Royal Army along a more reactionary line.

August 24: 1,000 civil servants in Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Savannakhet and Pakse attended military training courses.

September 11: The Lao National Assembly passed a bill on the national budget in which 32 million dollars (half of the budget) were earmarked for military operations.

(Continued page 7)

75th Plenary Session of Paris Conference

on Viet Nam (July 16, 1970)

The U.S. Torpedoes the Geneva Agreements

Says DRVN Negotiator

AT the 75th session of the Paris Conference, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy, in the name of the DRVN Government Delegation, recalled the different stages of the sabotage of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina (the 16th anniversary of their signing is forthcoming) by the US which has invaded Viet Nam and expanded the war throughout Indochina. He dismissed the

Nixon Administration's specious pleas for its Viet Nam war policy. He said that the Vietnamese people unreservedly supported the struggle of the brother Lao and Cambodian peoples for independence, peace and neutrality, which is consistent with the fundamental principles of the Geneva Agreements signed in 1954 and 1962 and the present situation in that part of the world.

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DRVN

(Continued from page 3)

increased by 9 per cent over 1968. In October 1969, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the liberation of the capital city, an exhibition of handicrafts and objects of art was held in Hanoi with 1,000 articles from 45 handicraft enterprises. This wide range of hand-made articles shows the new efforts made by Hanoi to restore, preserve and promote handicrafts and applied arts to meet the evergrowing home needs and exports.

Samples of new handicraft articles are permanently on display at a shop in Trang Tien Street for the good of the consumers.

To develop further the productive capacity of Hanoi handicrafts, in 1969, the

artisanal establishments produced 176 tools to improve their equipment. The handicraft co-operatives in the city have multiplied their engineering and repair workshops. The city administrative committee earmarked a big sum of money to open a co-operative for production and overhaul of machines.

Thanks to the development of handicrafts, the living conditions of co-operative artisans have been constantly raised. Dining-halls, crèches, dispensaries have been built by handicraft co-operatives for the welfare of their members. At present, the latter are entitled to various benefits of social security (illness, maternity, family allowances).

* One Million Attendances

THE Dramatic Art Department of the DRVN recently organized three theatrical festivals which drew over one million attendances.

The first festival took place at Nghe An, the second at Nam Ha and the third at Haiphong. Fifty-two professional troupes, including those of the army coming from almost all provinces and towns of North Viet Nam, took part in the occasions, performing over 60 plays of various kinds including classical and modern dramas.

Most arresting were the performances given by the

troupes from the mountain regions of North Viet Nam in their minority nationalities languages.

The themes of all the plays were drawn from the nation's history or dealt with the last resistance war against French colonialism and chiefly with the present struggle against the US aggressors in both zones of the country, or with socialist construction in the North. The best plays have been selected and will be acted on the Hanoi stage on the 25th founding anniversary of the DRVN (September 2, 1970).

Erratum

In our issue No 276, page 5, column 3, line 52, *decisive influence* should read *divisive influence*.

(Continued from page 1)

on being the richest one in history suffers, in consequence of an unjustifiable war, from inflation, economic recession and unemployment, it is small wonder that consciousness are stirred, to rebellion and confidence in the government and the regime is eroded.

US neo-colonialism may be served by huge technical and financial means. It is none the less doomed to failure. For, starting from a position of weakness, it can only aggravate that weakness, that passivity, in both the political and military fields, each time it rushes headlong into a new venture. The Cambodia morass closely follows the Viet Nam morass; now that Washington has extended the war to Cambodia, American and world public opinion has reacted even more strongly against the war in Viet Nam.

Richard Nixon will resort

A Double Lesson

to other ways and means in the endeavour to win in Viet Nam, in Indochina, and impose American hegemony in Asia. The peoples of Indochina and those of Asia and other parts of the world must be prepared for more, napalm and "defoliant" on their part.

The wish "No more Viet Nam!" can only be realized through a resolute, persistent, and multifarious struggle waged by all the peoples, wherever they may be, either in Vietnamese, Lao, or Cambodian soil, or in Tokyo, in Africa, in Texas, or in Europe. One must dip the wings of American imperialism, and not beg for its kindness or appeal to its good will. No proposal has been more reasonable than those put forward by the Vietnamese, Lao and Khmer peoples as a basis for negotiation and a peaceful solution to the problems of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Washington, either under Johnson or Nixon, has never replied other than with bombs, napalm and "defoliant." The Vietnamese, Lao and Khmer peoples will know how to counter arms and arms, just as they will know, when the time comes, when the men of Washington have learned the lessons of their failures, how to offer solutions of peace that respect both their own fundamental national interests and the well-understood interests of their adversaries.

In these days when one reads in the newspapers that 165 Americans have been captured or reported missing in action in Laos.

FACTS AND EVENTS...

(Continued from page 6)

October 31: The LPF passed at an extraordinary session its political program.

November 1: The Souvanna Phouma government signed an agreement for the extension of Wattay airport in Vientiane by Japan.

November 20: South Phetravy, LPF representative in Vientiane, denounced US redoubling of air raids on the Lao liberated zone since the US unconditional bombing halt in North Viet Nam.

November 20: A big US ammunition dump was attacked by Lao patriotic forces; one-third of the depot was blown up, shaking window panes in Vientiane.

March 21: AP quoted Melvin Laird, US Defense Secretary, as saying that since 1965 the US Command in South Viet Nam had received orders to operate in Laos as a "protective reaction."

August: At US instigation, the Vietnamese authorities arrested and persecuted the DRVN Embassy and *Viet Nam News Agency* personnel.

Operation "Koukiet" was launched to encroach on the liberated zone in Xieng Khouang and Plain of Jars.

September 20: *AP* quoted Souvanna Phouma as admitting US military aid to his administration.

October 20: Hearing by a US Senate special sub-committee of a report on US commitment in Laos.

October 22: Souvanna Phouma was reported by *AP* as saying that a tacit agreement had been reached during his American trip in October 1969 for US continued aid to his government.

November 19: According to *AP*, US De-

fense Department reported to Congress that 165 Americans had been captured or reported missing in action in Laos.

December 13: US Senate passed a resolution prohibiting introduction of US combat troops in Laos and Thailand.

1970

February 1: US aircraft doubled their activities in Laos compared with last year: something 700 sorties of US planes taking off from US bases in Thailand were recorded in a day (*USIS*).

February 21: After long and fierce battles, Lao patriotic forces liberated Plain of Jars, Xieng Khouang area, put out of action over 6,000 rightist troops and Thai mercenaries.

March 8: The Central Committee released a 5-point political solution to the Lao problem.

March 8: The White House admitted the capture of a captain of the US Army and 26 other Americans in military operations in Laos. The US Command in Saigon received orders to publish human and material losses of the USAF in Laos.

March 10: Arrival in Vientiane of Colonel Pradit Thiangtham, envoy carrying Prince Souphanouvong's letter to Prince Souvanna Phouma.

March 20: The White House admitted Thailand involvement in military operations in Laos.

April: The World Peace Council held session in Moscow and resolved to support the Lao people's resistance against US imperialism.

April 28: The Indochinese People's Summit Conference unreservedly supported the Lao people's struggle against US aggression.

April 30: Attopou (Lower Laos) liberated by Lao patriotic forces.

May 17: International Conference to Support the Lao People met in Cairo.

June 9: Lao patriotic forces liberated Saravane (Lower Laos).

DEPARTING ANTI-WAR G.I. TELLS HIS STORY

(Continued from page 2)

of Viet Nam is the high esteem in which they hold the people of Viet Nam and the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN."

Sweeney went on to say: "During my trip to the North I was able to see the heavy damage inflicted upon the DRVN by the US Government. It made me angry and ashamed. Seeing the damage, I was ashamed to be an American."

Sweeney thanked the PRG of the RSVN for helping him to travel to Sweden. "I would also like to thank the people of Viet Nam for having let me take part in

their struggle, even though in a small way, against the common enemy of both the people of Viet Nam and the American people."

Sweeney then answered the newsmen's questions. Asked about the anti-war feelings among US troops in South Viet Nam, he said: "I saw many GIs who were sick of the war. I knew of people who shot themselves in the feet in order not to come back. I knew of people who used drugs to try to forget."

Asked why he chose to go to Sweden, Sweeney replied: "If I went home directly, the US Government would put me in a military prison for a very long time. Being in prison does not scare me, because I went through there

during my training. "I want to become active, and I fear I would not be active in a military prison."

About the crimes committed by the US in South Viet Nam, Sweeney said: "I feel personally that making children beg food by not feeding them is a crime in itself. Before Operation Dewey Canyon, as given a briefing, I was told: 'When you were going and you saw anything that move, you were to shoot at it and ask questions later.'"

"And I asked: 'What if it was a child or an unarmed person in front of us,' and I was told: 'Shoot and ask questions later.'"

South Viet Nam

MILITARY OPERATIONS

CA MAU PROVINCE: PLAF hammered at an enemy artillery unit in Song Doc military sub-sector: 120 enemy casualties, four 105 mm cannons destroyed.

TRA VINH PROVINCE: Cau Ke sub-sector attacked from July 6 to 8: over 100 enemy troops wiped out, 2 US planes downed.

NINH THUAN PROVINCE: Many enemy positions and bases, including Phan Rang airfield, pounded by PLAF artillery on the night of July 9.

THUA THIEN PROVINCE: Military sector on Hill 935 stormed by PLAF from July 1 to 10: about 900 US paratroops killed, 3 US companies annihilated, 40 aircraft downed or wrecked, 7 cannons and a great number of enemy blockhouses and fortifications overrun.

THE US Command in Saigon announced that General George Casey, commanding the US First Air-Mobile Cavalry Division in South Viet Nam, had been reported "missing" since July 7 together with six other American officers and men flying in helicopter to visit a field hospital. He was the third US general "missing" in South Viet Nam since April 1, 1970 and the seventh since July 1967.



SAIGON STUDENTS STAGE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST U.S.-PUPPETS

(Continued from page 1)

student together burned several draft cards of American youths at the meeting amid shouts of the audience, "Long live Peace!" and "Down with Nixon!"

Two women handed to Bishop Moore a coffin which they said contained bones of the Son My victims. It also bore the words: "How many people in My Lai (Son My) were killed? How many tons of bombs have been dropped in Viet Nam by B-52 bombers and how many Vietnamese girls have become taxi-girls because of the Viet Nam war?"

Bishop Moore told the crowd as he received it, "This is too heavy a gift. We are moved to tears before this meeting." Speaking at the meeting, Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Saigon Students' Union, denounced the Thieu-Ky-Khiem bloody repression of students striking for peace and called for the immediate withdrawal of US troops and those of US allies from South Viet Nam and the right for the Vietnamese people to settle themselves on their affairs.

C. Palmer, President of

the Committee for Students Mobilization to End the War in Viet Nam, stressed that the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration would not survive without US support.

After the meeting, the students held demonstrations and distributed a communique calling on all the South Viet Nam students to strengthen their unity in their sustained effort for:

- 1 - Peace and independence for South Viet Nam,
- 2 - Self-determination and total withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Viet Nam,
- 3 - President Nixon's withholding of US support from the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime.

The communique also appealed to the peace-loving students in the world to support the South Viet Nam students' struggle for peace.

On July 12, the Saigon Students' Union made public a letter of protest against police brutalities against the Saigon students' demonstration of July 11, as a result of which eight students were wounded, four of them seriously. The letter

revealed that a student dissenter had been arrested. The same day, some fifty girl and boy students including Huynh Tan Mam, who had been illegally detained in Chi Hoa, Con Son (Poulo Condor), Tan Hiep and Thu Duc prisons, decided to set up in Saigon a "Committee of Struggle for Freedom."

EARLIER, thousands of students of the Saigon Agricultural Faculty and Post and Telecommunication College had held a meeting and passed a resolution boycotting compulsory military training ordered by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. They were staunchly backed by the students of other universities and colleges in Saigon, Hue, Da Lat, Can Tho, etc. An appeal was launched by the Saigon Students' Union to all students in South Viet Nam to take the same measure.

Photo:

At a demonstration supporting the workers' general strike, Saigon students set fire to a jeep of US military police (June 15, 1970).

DRVN POSITION ON INDOCHINA SETTLEMENT REMAINS UNCHANGED

(VNA Statement)

RECENTLY, Western news agencies spread rumours about Hanoi's latest viewpoint on the settlement of the Indochina question with a view to distorting the position of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Viet Nam News Agency is authorized to declare that the position of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on the Indochina question has been made clear in the May 1, 1970 Statement of the DRVN Government and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front on the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, in the May 2, 1970 Statement of the DRVN Government on the brazen invasion of Cambodia and expansion of war to the whole of Indochina by the US and in the Joint Statement of June 7, 1970 between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

It remains unchanged.

SOUTH VIET NAM SITUATION AS SEEN BY NGUYEN CAO KY

At a banquet given by the Saigon Editors' Association at Caravelle Hotel, Nguyen Cao Ky took the floor and reviewed the economic, financial and social situation of South Viet Nam, Gai Phong Press Agency reported.

Ky said: "The most crucial problem facing us (the Thieu-Ky regime-Ed.) at present is our economic and financial collapse. It has been referred to daily in the press which carries cartoons, editorials and even miscellaneous news on countless cases of robbery and suicide and family tragedies caused by poverty. It has also been the theme of speeches and heated debates in the National Assembly. All this spells out a serious economic situation and the people's hard and unstable living conditions which have now become a source of anxiety."

"This predicament," Ky added, "is due to the fact that production is slack, war expenditures are soaring up, the national budget is showing a big deficit, and the national economy relies only on US aid, which only helps fight inflation and surmount immediate difficulties."

"The difficulties at the bottom of the present state of things," he went on, "include what is called 'Vietnamization' of the war and the current system of taxation. They have brought about disastrous consequences in all fields. They have landed many families in dire straits, while socially, given rise to howling injustices and bad customs and habits. Many villas and buildings have been erected near slums."

"Our present economic crisis is beyond remedy," he complained. "Therefore we are not surprised that all the economic and financial measures taken recently by Nguyen Van Thieu have fizzled out."

With regard to "Vietnamization," Ky not only held it responsible for the present slump, but anticipated that it contained the seeds of failure and defeat. He said: "Formerly we received from the US massive aid of all kinds from war material to personal outfits. Now with 'Vietnamization' all plans of operations, war means and combat methods have been revised. We are no longer able to strike at a minor position of the enemy with a great number of choppers, bombers, and heavy guns because we are short of them. Besides, when the American troops withdraw, the war means are cut down and the Vietnamese army (puppet troops - Ed.) have to fight in tighter circumstances."

"We must admit that this administration does not enjoy the confidence of the people," Ky concluded. "I would resign should Mr. Thieu not listen to what I've told him."

There is not a more candid admission nor a more vivid illustration than this of the Saigon regime's failures and difficulties, of the divergences between it and its Yankee masters as well as of the personal rivalry between Thieu and Ky who are engaged in a cut-throat competition for the "monopoly" of serving the US.